



Montana Drought Advisory Committee



Montana Agricultural
Statistics Service

Peggy Stringer
Director

July 22, 2008



**July 1 forecast
indicates**

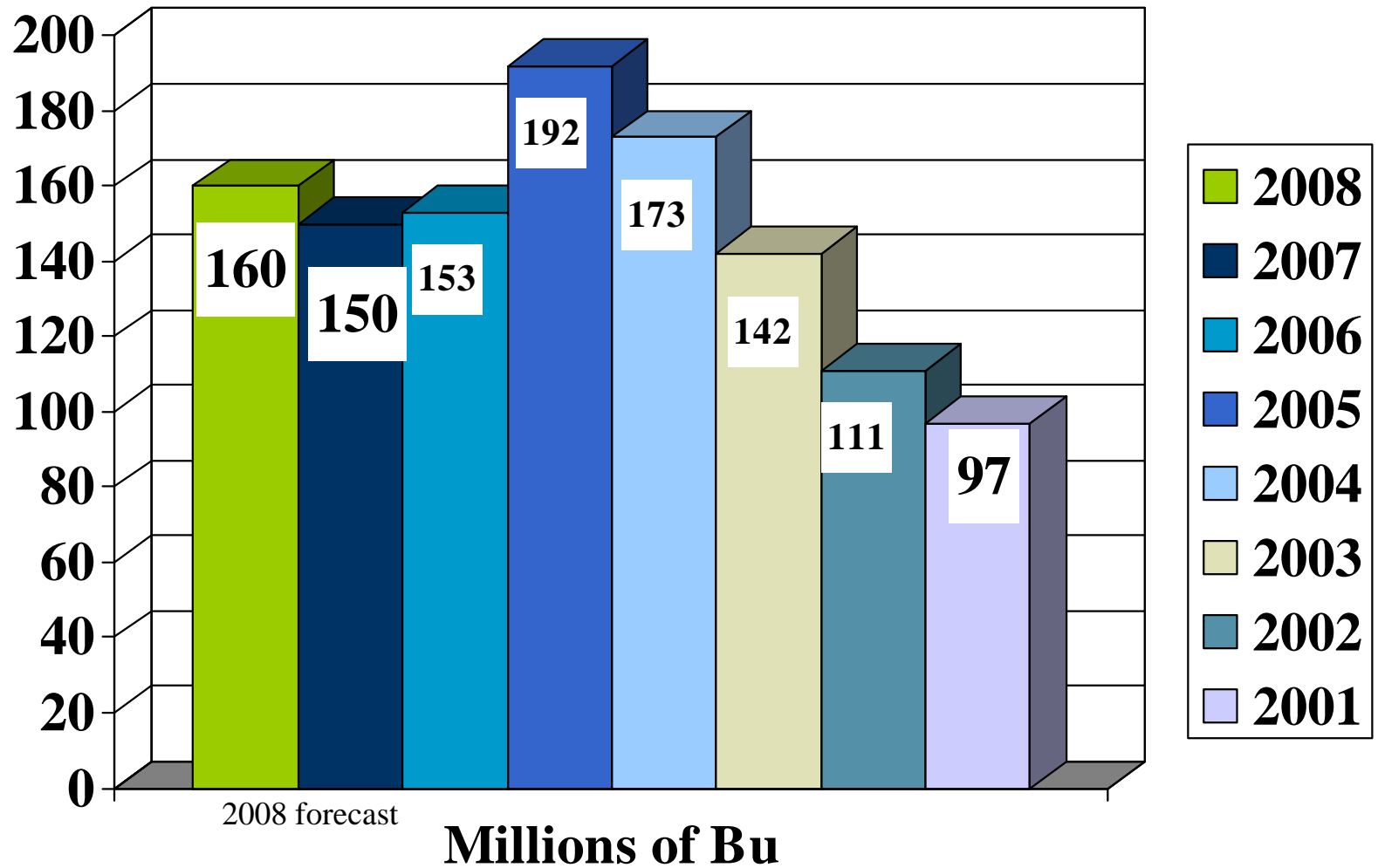
**All wheat production is
up 7% from last year**

**Winter wheat
production is up 9%
from last year**

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All Wheat Production 2008-2001



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Winter Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



Harvested acreage

- 2.45 million acres
- Up 260,000 acres from last year

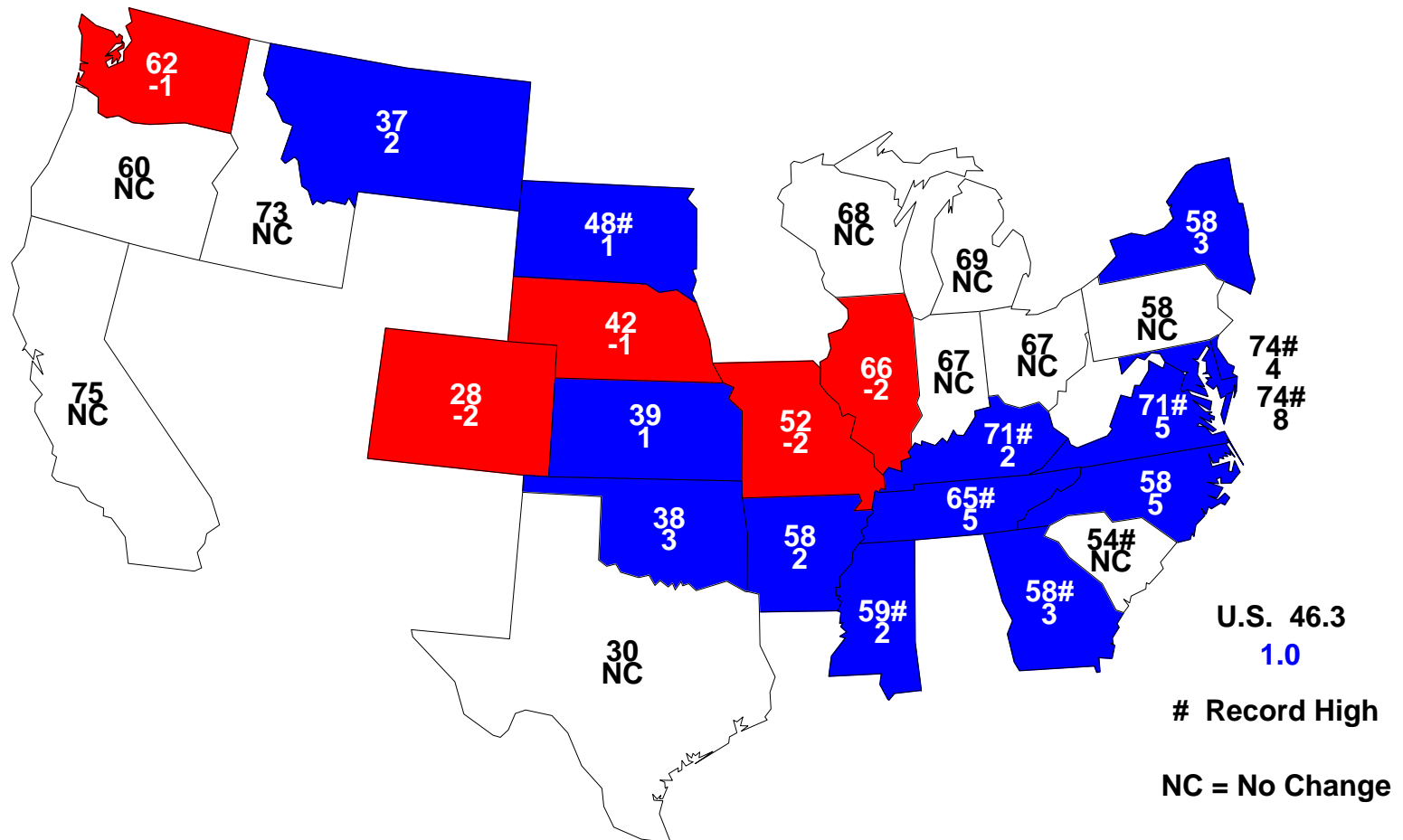
**Crop development behind last year
and the 5-year average**

Harvest not yet begun

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Winter Wheat Yields, July 1, 2008

Bushels and Change From Previous Month



Winter Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



Production

- 90.7 million bu
- Up 9% from last year

Yield

- 2008 yield forecast 37.0 bu ac
 - Up 2 bu from June 1, 2008 forecast
 - Down 1 bu from last year
 - A little more than a half a bu higher than 10-year average of 36.4 bu

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Winter Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



On July 1 indications point to a
good winter wheat crop

August 1 Forecast on August 12

Final winter wheat estimates

Small grains summary released

September 30

July 22, 2008



Spring Planted Crops

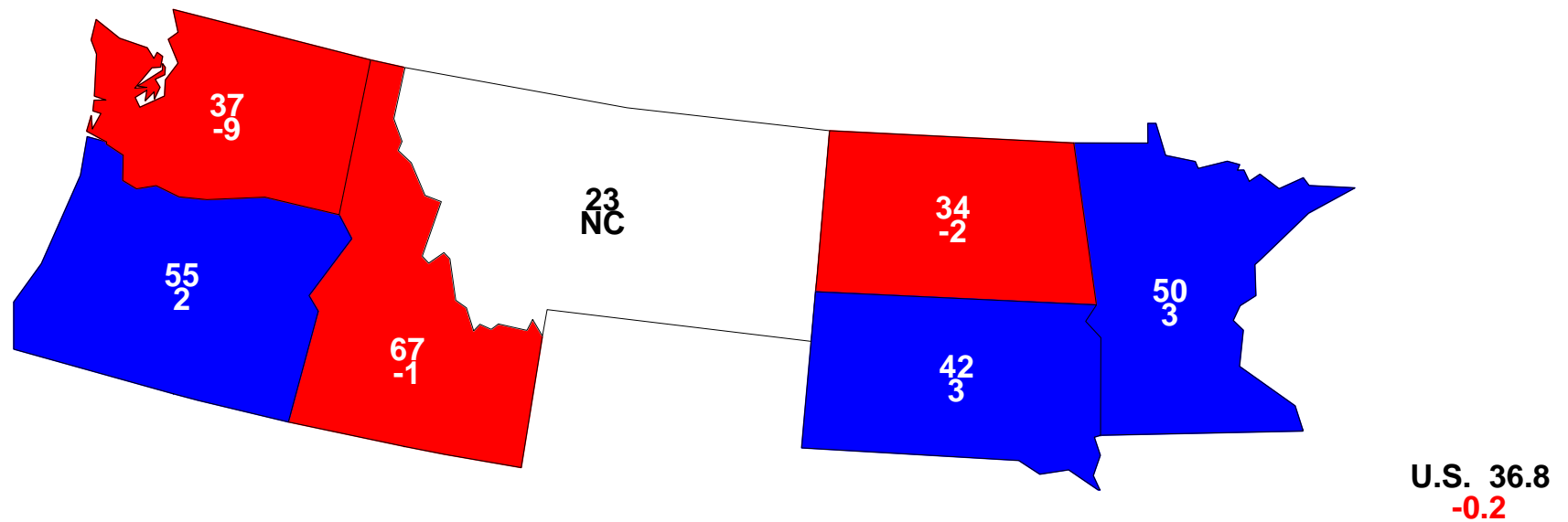
- Spring wheat progress behind last year and five-year average
- Barley progress behind last year and five-year average

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Other Spring Wheat Yields, July 1, 2008

Bushels and Change From Previous Year





Spring Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



Planted acreage

- 2.50 million acres
- Up 50,000 acres from last year

Harvested acreage

- 2.45 million acres
- Up 50,000 acres from last year

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Spring Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



Production

- 56.4 million bu
- Up 2% from last year

Yield

- 23.0 bu per ac
- Unchanged from last year
- Almost 3 bu lower than the 10-year average of 25.7 bu

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Durum Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



Planted acreage

- 610,000 acres
- Up 130,000 acres from last year

Harvested acreage

- 605,000 acres
- Up 27% from last year

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Durum Wheat July 1 Production Forecast



Production

- 12.7 million bu
- Up 11% from last year

Yield

- 21.0 bu per ac
- Down 3 bu from last year
- Down 4.5 bu from the
10-year average of 25.5 bu

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Barley July 1 Production Forecast



Planted acreage

- 910,000 acres
- Up 10,000 acres from last year

Harvested acreage

- 780,000 acres
- Up 60,000 acres from last year

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Barley July 1 Production Forecast



Production

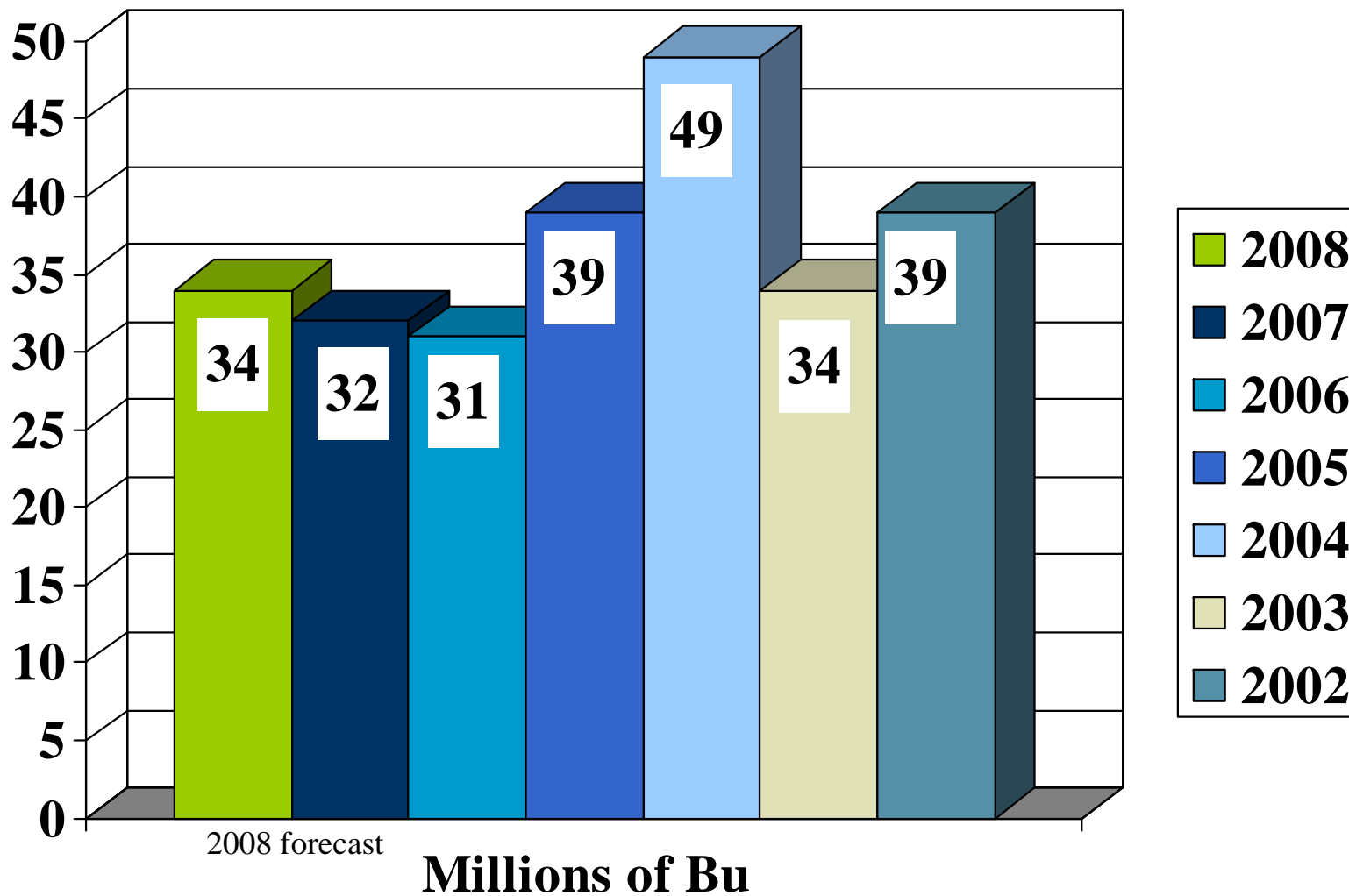
- 33.5 million bu
- Compared with 31.7 million bu last year

Yield

- 43.0 bu per ac
- 1 bu less than last year
- 4 bu lower than the 10-year average of 47 bu

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Barley Production 2008-2002



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Topsoil Moisture Behind Last Year and 5-Year Avg.



<i>July 13, 2008</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	64%	48%	58%	56%
Adequate	35%	51%	40%	43%
Surplus	1%	1%	2%	1%

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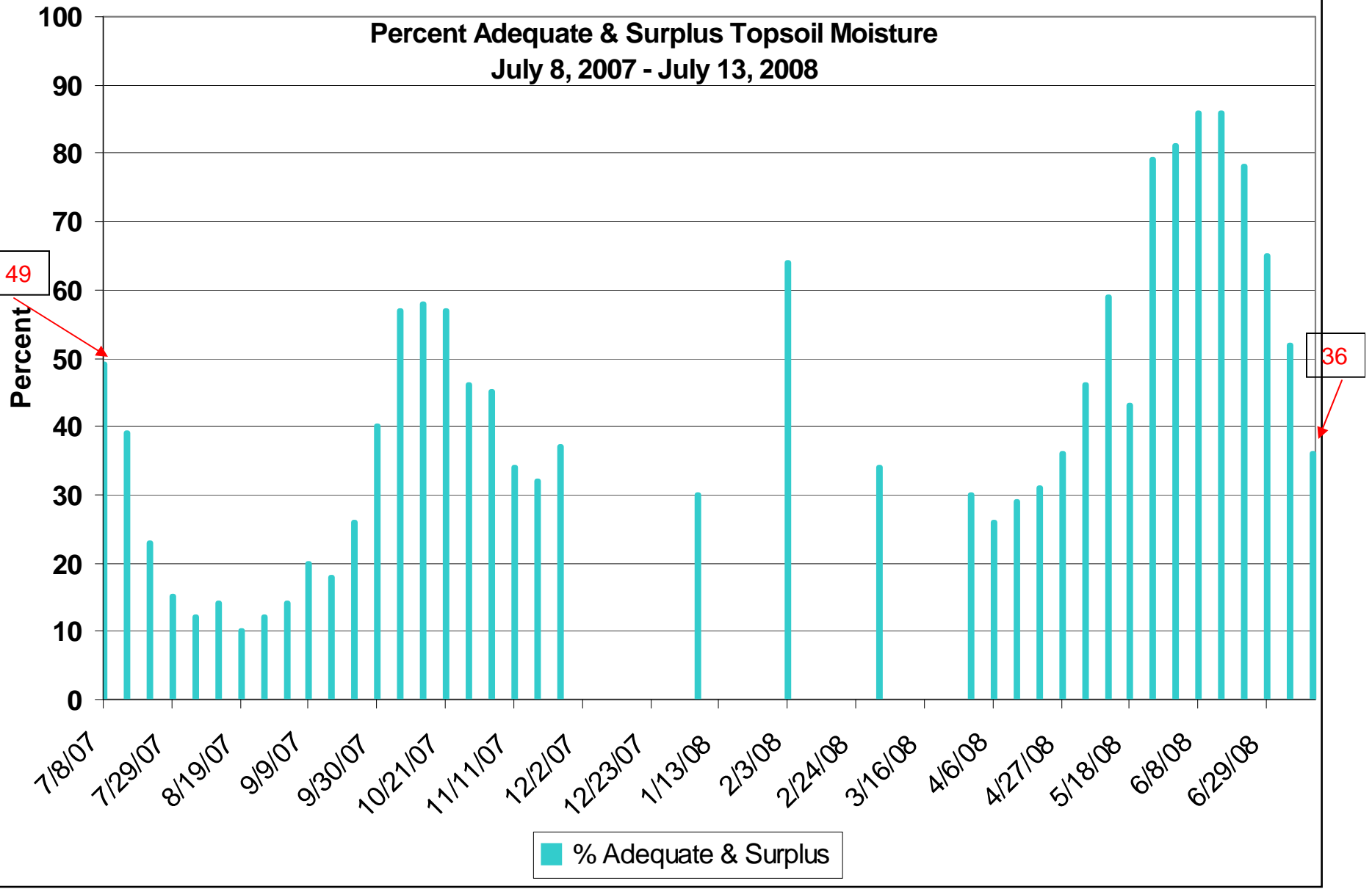
Subsoil Moisture Behind Last Year & 5-Year Avg.



<i>July 13, 2008</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short – short	59%	49%	45%	56%
Adequate	40%	50%	53%	43%
Surplus	1%	1%	2%	1%

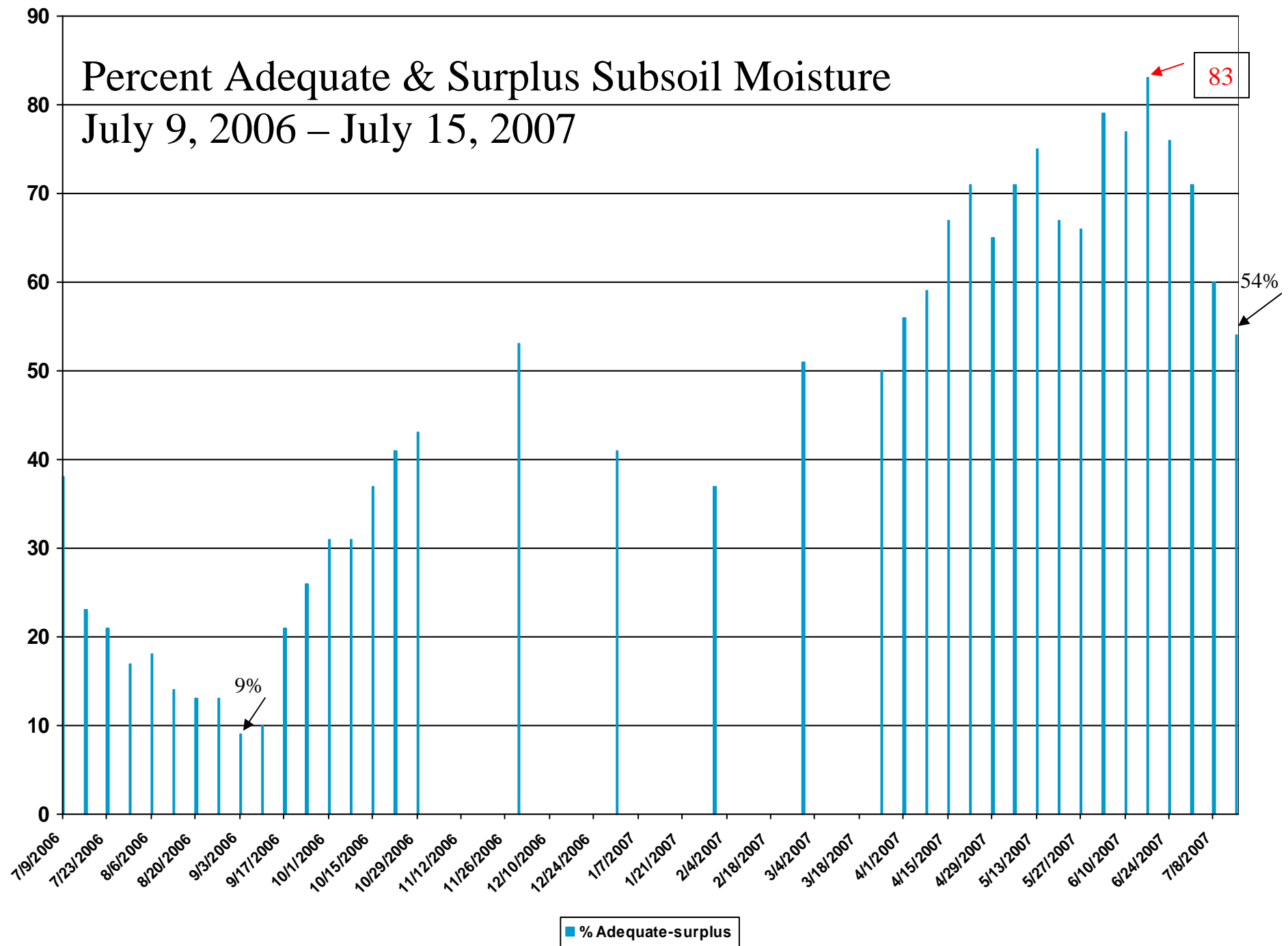
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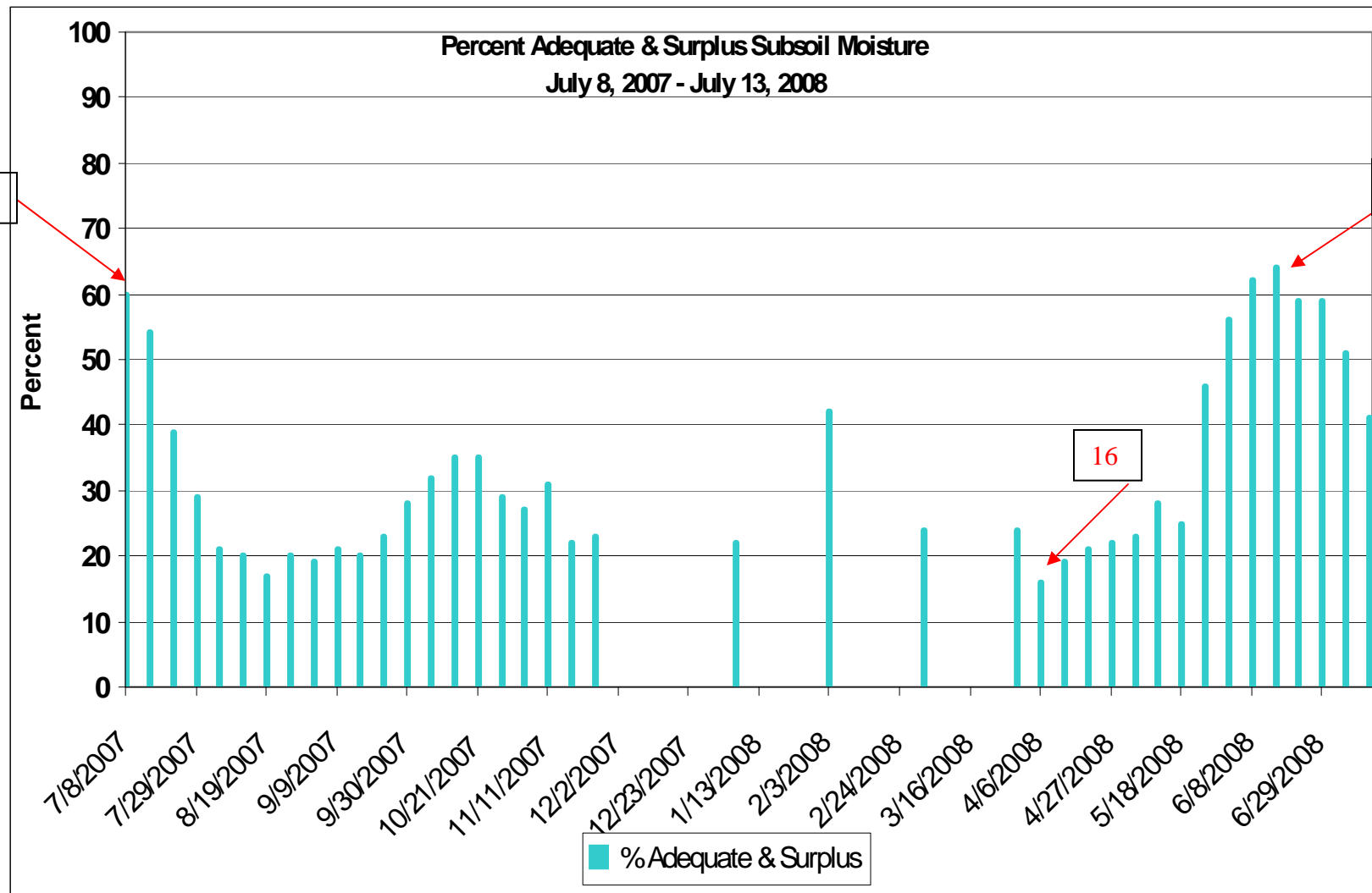
Percent Adequate & Surplus Topsoil Moisture
July 8, 2007 - July 13, 2008



Percent Adequate & Surplus Subsoil Moisture

July 9, 2006 – July 15, 2007







Crop Weather Report Week Ending July 13, 2008



- Spring wheat, durum wheat, barley, and oats have begun turning
- Only 51% of winter wheat has turned, compared to 87% last year

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Winter Wheat Crop Condition Behind Last Year and Five-Year Average



	Very poor- Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
<i>July 13, 2008</i>				
This week	9%	31%	43%	17%
Last week	9%	50%	34%	7%
Last year	10%	23%	44%	23%
5-yr avg.	9%	26%	47%	18%

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Winter Wheat Progress Behind Last Year & 5- Year Average



<i>July 13, 2008</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr avg
Winter wheat Turned	51%	9%	87%	79%

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Spring Wheat Crop Condition Behind Last Year & 5-Year Average



<i>July 13, 2008</i>	Very poor-Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	14%	37%	42%	7%
Last week	10%	28%	56%	6%
Last year	17%	18%	55%	10%
5-yr avg	11%	27%	54%	8%

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Crop Progress behind last year & 5-year average



<i>July 13, 2008</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr avg
Spring wheat				
headed	79%	36%	74%	75%
turning	7%	n/a	16%	14%
Barley				
headed	65%	47%	84%	78%
turning	6%	n/a	24%	15%

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Barley Crop Condition Better than Last Year & 5-Yr. Avg.



<i>July 13, 2008</i>	Very poor-Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	5%	30%	56%	9%
Last week	5%	34%	49%	12%
Last year	25%	17%	48%	10%
5-yr avg	11%	25%	49%	15%

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Last week's dry weather spurred hay harvesting



<i>July 13, 2008</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr avg
Alfalfa hay First cutting	74%	54%	90%	82%
Other hay First cutting	69%	45%	82%	70%

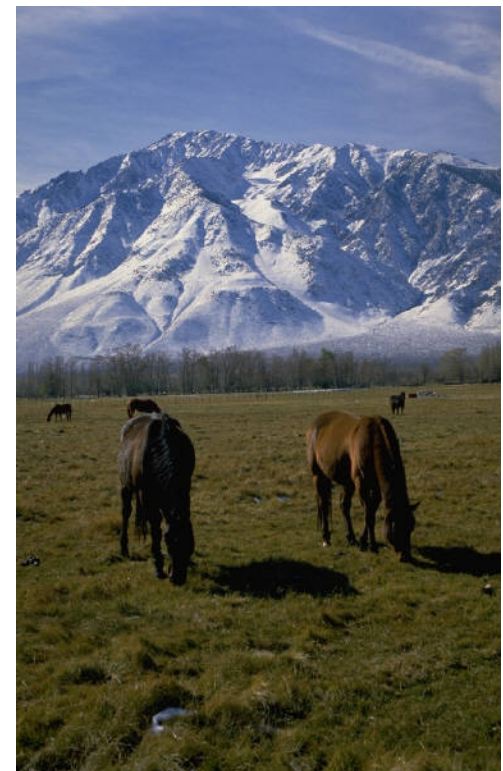
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Livestock Grazing

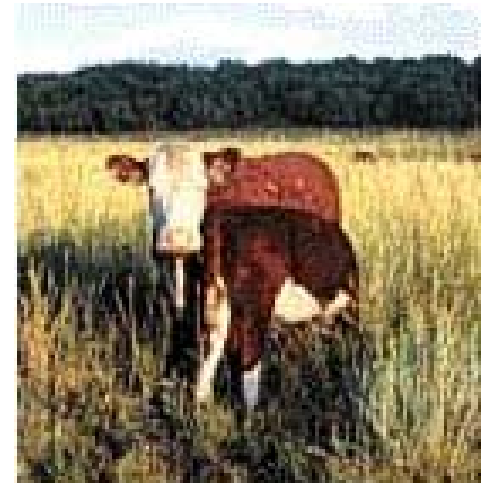
- Range and pasture feed condition behind last year, but ahead of five-year average



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Range & Pasture Conditions



<i>July 13, 2008</i>	This week	Last week	Last year	5-yr avg
Very poor-poor	15%	15%	13%	20%
Fair	34%	31%	25%	31%
Good	36%	38%	47%	39%
Excellent	15%	16%	15%	10%

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To Sum It Up

McCone County

“The winds blows from the east and from the west. Wait, that was last week. Same song, second verse. Nothing has changed, other than the crop getting shorter and drier.”

Valley County - “Continuous high winds - not good.”

Sheridan County

“The dry weather is taking its toll and the poorer land is burning up with even the better land showing stress where there hasn't been any lucky showers.”

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To Sum It Up

Choteau County - “The spring crops are starting to stress in spots with the leaves turning in places. They could sure use a good shot of rain real soon.”

Toole County - “Sure could use a rain; we missed out on the 4th of July rains, and all the crops are showing a lot of stress. Lucky that it hasn't been 100 degrees. Things still look better than last year, though.”

Liberty County – “Nice to have a cooler summer than last year. The country still looks great.”

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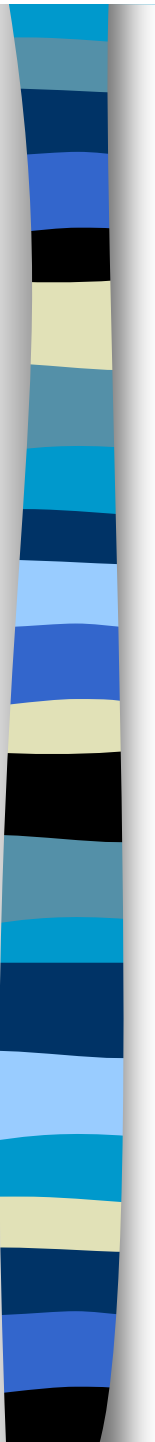


To Sum It Up



- Spring seeded dryland crops need rain to produce an average crop
- Without rain spring seeded dryland crop production will produce below normal yields
- Windy conditions are drying out crops and range lands
- August 1 Forecast on August 12
- Final small grains production on September 30

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